

Columbia Missourian

71st Year — No. 65

Good Morning! It's Wednesday, November 29, 1978

2 Sections — 26 Pages — 15 Cents

\$200 now buys what \$100 did in 1967

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sharply rising consumer prices, the chief worry of most Americans, passed a depressing new milestone last month: the government reported Tuesday that a dollar now buys less than half what it did 11 years ago.

The Labor Department said a 0.8 percent increase in October consumer prices pushed its price-change index to 200.9. That means goods and services which cost buyers \$100 in 1967 — the base year for such calculations — were priced at \$200.90 in October.

The October advance was identical to September's, and pushed consumer prices to a level 8.9 percent above October 1977.

Food, housing and medical care costs were the main contributors to the October increase, the department said, each rising at the fastest pace since early summer.

President Carter has cautioned the public not to expect immediate results from his anti-inflation program, which is anchored on a system of voluntary wage-price standards coupled with federal budget restraint.

Commenting on Tuesday's report, Carter's press secretary Jody Powell said it confirms "we have a very stubborn inflation problem." But he predicted "we will begin to top out these prices next year," given cooperation by Congress, business and labor.

However, the report drew another demand

Food, medical, housing costs rise fastest

from AFL-CIO President George Meany that the administration prescribe stronger anti-inflation medicine.

"It is obvious that speeches and threats not based on legislative authority will not cure inflation," Meany said in a statement. "The need for a statutory, across the board controls program becomes more apparent daily."

Most administration officials have said the first clear signs of progress should not be evident until mid-1979. The administration's target is to hold inflation to between 6 and 6.5 percent next year.

The new report spelled out these October developments:

- Food and beverage costs jumped 0.8 percent, the largest since June, and grocery prices rose 0.9 percent due to large jumps for meat.

- Housing costs rose 1 percent, also the largest since June, with home prices and mortgage interest rates continuing to climb.

- Medical care costs rose 1.1 percent, the year's biggest increase.

- Entertainment costs doubled the previous month's rate, rising 0.8 percent.

- Clothing and transportation prices declined somewhat from September despite a 1.4 percent increase for gasoline.

In a companion report, the department reported the average American's purchasing power fell for the third straight month and was 3.6 percent below the level a year ago.

The increase in grocery prices was more than double September's 0.4 percent. Grocery prices were unchanged in August and actually declined in July. The main culprit in October was meat, which rose 2.1 percent after falling the previous three months.

Pork prices rose 3.7 percent, the first gain in five months. Beef climbed 1.6 percent following a 0.4 percent gain in September. Poultry, which declined in August and September, rose 2.5 percent.

Home prices rose 1.4 percent and mortgage interest rates 0.7 percent, about the same as in September. But the figures were compiled before the government's dollar-rescue plan was announced Nov. 1, and mortgage rates have soared since.

Although the average prices of all consumer goods and services have doubled since 1967, some rose much more sharply than others during that period.

Prices of non-alcoholic beverages, for instance, more than tripled, while the cost of alcoholic beverages fell far short of even doubling.

The Labor Department publishes a list each month on goods and services based on a 1967 average of 100. That represents \$100 spent 11 years ago for those items.

The overall index has now hit 200.9, meaning that what cost \$100 in 1967 now costs \$200.90. The non-alcoholic beverage index rose the fastest of any of the sectors, hitting 340.4 in October. Thus \$100 worth of those beverages in 1967 now costs \$340.40.

Alcoholic beverages, on the other hand, stood at 162.9. So the \$100 worth of booze purchased 11 years ago cost an additional \$62.90 last month.

There were some other unusual findings in the list.

For instance, by far the largest increases for clothing were registered in the baby sector, as

compared with children's or adult's apparel. Used car prices went up considerably faster than the cost of new models. And the cost of maintaining a home rose more quickly than actual home prices.

Here is a representative sample of some other categories and their index listing for October:

- Sugar and sweets, 262.8;
- Dairy products, 191.5;
- Fruits and vegetables, 226.3;
- Home purchase, 203.8;
- Financing, taxes and insurance for homes, 271.9;
- Fuel oil, coal and bottled gas, 302.5;
- Furniture, 157.5;
- Men's and boy's clothing, 158.2;
- Women's and girls' clothing, 151.0;
- Infants' and toddlers' clothing, 219.3;
- Shoes, 167.3;
- New cars, 154.7;
- Used cars, 189.7;
- Gasoline, 201.3;
- Public transportation, 188.0;
- Medical care services, 241.8;
- Professional health care services (doctors, dentists, etc.), 213.7;
- Entertainment, 179.6;
- Tobacco, 182.1;
- Toilet goods and personal care appliances, 180.1;
- School books and supplies, 184.8.

Insight Institution to terminate curriculum

School of Religion considers options

By Coleen Berger
Missourian staff writer

Although the Missouri School of Religion's present program for University and Columbia College students will end in May, it is "exploring alternatives to the present program," said Adrian McKay, the school's president.

The School of Religion's administration, faculty and board of trustees have been considering "for two or three years" three alternative routes the school might take, he said. The school is at 502 S. Ninth St., on property it owns in the middle of the University campus.

"We are shooting for the middle of next semester" for a decision by the board concerning the alternatives, he said. The director of the school's board announced last Friday that the present School of Religion program for college students, which allows University and Columbia College students to receive credit for religion courses, would be terminated in May because of financial difficulties.

Two directions the school might take would be integration of the present or a new academic religious program into one of two education institutions "in the general area of mid-Missouri," McKay said.

The institutions have asked to remain anonymous, he said, adding that "we are negotiating with two because we don't want to have to wait another couple of years if one decides against integrating our program."

Combining the academic program and full faculty into "Institution A" is the first alternative, McKay said.

The second proposal involves "Institution B" in the integration of the academic program with full faculty and the addition of vocational education and training, continuing education for clergymen and education and training for lay ministers.

This alternative is similar to the school's program before it began phasing out its graduate seminary program in 1972, he said.

Continuation of the Missouri School of Religion with fewer faculty members and without the academic program for

(See RELIGION, Page 14A)

M.U. band extravaganza draws 2,000

By Carol Brunngraber
Missourian staff writer

Jesse Auditorium never sounded better.

The University's music department Tuesday night held its first "Band Spectacular" before approximately 2,000 students and local residents who paid \$3 and \$1.50 for tickets. The money raised for the performance will be used for band scholarships.

It was a musical extravaganza with the Symphonic Band, Marching Mizzou and Mini Mizzou covering a wide range of musical delights. Classical waltzes, disco tunes, fight songs and jazz selections were all a part of the evening's entertainment. And of course baton twirler Nancy Ustian, and the Golden Girls were there to dazzle the crowd with acrobatics and dances.

Although this was the first year on campus for the spectacular, the University's bands have held similar benefit performances in St. Louis for 17 years. Three of the performances were sellouts, said Dr. Alexander Pickard, conductor of Marching Mizzou.

Pickard hopes Tuesday night's performance will become an annual, sponsored event in Columbia, similar to the St. Louis concerts.

"People might begin to realize that we don't have anything like this in mid-Missouri," said Pickard. "Hopefully in a few years we might be able to fill Hearnes."

Pickard admits his bias concerning the abilities of the University bands. "You're not a true band leader unless you feel you have the best."

A highlight of the night was a "musical gridiron review of last season," in which Marching Mizzou performed fight songs from the past football season.

Pickard said the performance could not have come at a better time since Marching Mizzou is preparing to play at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis on Dec. 23. The University Tigers will face the Bengal Tigers of Louisiana State University in the bowl game.

Band members are excited about the bowl performance. Joel Church, a freshman baritone member of Marching Mizzou, said, "I couldn't be happier about the bowl game."

The band members Tuesday were a happy, spirited group. Marjorie



Nancy Ustian
Twirls with Mini Mizzou

Coats, a freshman flutist in Marching Mizzou, said, "The band is the best way to meet a lot of people. It's really great."

"To me the band is an institution," said Andrea Moore, a junior in Mini

Mizzou. You get to know a lot of people, in fact about 300."

Dave Galati, a tuba player for Mini Mizzou, said, "The band has become a part of my life which I couldn't live without."

Filing of petitions for court expected

By Della Fichtel
Missourian staff writer

Leaders of the petition drive to create a third magistrate court in Boone County expect to file their petitions with the county clerk's office today.

After the 500 signatures are verified as registered voters, the Circuit Court will conduct a hearing to determine if there is a need for a third magistrate.

Norma Robb, chairwoman of the Boone County Democratic Central Committee and a leader of the effort, said Tuesday the petitioners decided not to abandon their drive despite the City Council's decision to retain the Municipal Court.

The possible elimination of the court was a strong argument for a third magistrate, Mrs. Robb said. Had it been eliminated, the city court's 7,000 cases a year would have fallen onto the dockets of the other county courts.

Mrs. Robb said last week after the council vote that she believed the drive would be terminated. But at a meeting of all the petitioners a decision was made to continue the effort.

Mrs. Robb said she expects the signatures to be verified by the clerk's office quickly because the petitioners were "very careful to get only registered voters to sign."

The voter registration office will

certify the petitions. The names will be checked against voter lists to determine if the signers are registered within Boone County. The results then will be given to Circuit Clerk Janet Davis.

Ken Sappington, chief deputy county clerk, said he thought the certification could be completed in "a day or a day and a half" after the petitions are received.

After the signatures are verified, the circuit court will conduct its hearing on the need for another court. If a need is determined, Gov. Joseph Teasdale will appoint a judge — probably a Democrat recommended by the Democratic committee.

Several local lawyers have expressed interest in a possible appointment, including Magistrate Judge Temple Morgett who lost a close race for his ninth term to Prosecuting Attorney Milt Harper in the Nov. 7 election.

If a third magistrate is approved, he will become an associate circuit judge under the new court reform law that takes effect Jan. 2. The law eliminates the magistrate courts and incorporates them into a two-county circuit court.

The appointment of a new magistrate must be completed before Jan. 2 because the law providing for such petitions becomes void under the court reorganization.

City's temperatures warmer than normal

By John Morris
Missourian staff writer

Columbia temperatures are running warmer than normal for this time of year, but the nature of the city's winter weather is "up in the air," according to Russ Marshall of the National Weather Service.

"Last November's temperatures (in Columbia) were 1.2 degrees above normal, while this November's temperatures have been 3.1 degrees above normal," Marshall said Tuesday.

The reason for the city's unpredictable weather future, however, is that Columbia is in an "intermediate zone," Marshall said.

According to a United Press International report, Donald Gilman, the government's chief long-range forecaster, said the odds are 2-to-1 the

eastern part of the nation will have a warmer winter, while the western part of the nation will have a colder winter.

The report said a zone stretching from Maine through the Great Lakes and the central Great Plains to the Southwest remains unpredictable. Columbia is in this zone, Marshall said.

WeatherPage 14A

"What the long-range forecasters are saying is that the cold air will be dropping down into the West Coast region and then going back up into Canada, missing the East Coast," Marshall said.

"The long-range forecast can tell what will happen in the West and East of the country, but not what is going to happen in the middle."

In town today

7:30 p.m. "The Homecoming," University Fine Arts Building.

7:30 p.m. "The Veldt," University Gentry Hall Studio Theater.

8:15 p.m. George Defoe, trombone, Faculty Recital Series, University Fine Arts Recital Hall.

Index

Classified 11-13A
Comics/TV 9B
Movies 15A
Opinion 1A
People 1-3B
Record 14A
Sports 6-7A
Stocks 14A

Columbia's utility bonanza is turning sour

It was called the "horn of plenty" and the "pride of Columbia" in 1949, and for good reason — it had funded, or partially funded, the city's armory and community center, fire and police building, parks, municipal building and library.

But things have changed for the Columbia electric and water utility. It is no longer the "pride of Columbia." The city's rapid growth, the increasing cost of coal and supplemental electricity and the expense of capital improvements all have contributed to the higher rates.

This article, part of a series examining the Columbia utility, looks at the history of the city utility and its

connection to rising utility rates. The remaining articles will deal with the utility's relationship to suppliers, its financial stability and its future.

Its future may be decided by the balance sheet.

The Columbia Water and Light Department operated at a deficit during the first and second quarters of this budget year. With the deficits and the increasing utility rates, some of the same questions are being asked now as were asked when citizens decided to buy the utility in 1903.

The first time they voted, Columbians said no to purchasing the Columbia Water and Light Co. But less than a



This series on the Columbia Water and Light Department was written by Nan Seelman, Jeff Jasper and Anne Dettien of the Columbia Missourian's special reporting team on business.

month later, another election was held and the required two-thirds majority voted in favor of buying the utility. The

city purchased the power plant for \$68,680.03 in August 1904. A \$100,000 bond issue for plant improvements passed three months later.

The utility, run by the city water and light committee, had 300 water and light customers in 1904. Electricity cost 15 cents per kilowatt hour (kwh) and meters cost \$15.

A small plant on the banks of Hinkson Creek generated the electricity. The plant's engines were small and obsolete and electricity was sold only to a few wealthy residents and businesses.

Water was obtained from a surface reservoir created by a dam across Hinkson Creek. The water was in-

sufficiently treated and the quantity was inadequate. So in the November election of 1903, the townspeople voted in favor of drilling deep wells.

For the first 15 to 20 years, the city struggled to build up the utility. The obsolete power plant equipment resulted in heavy maintenance charges and the need for capital investment. But the plant was paid for by 1925 and soon the city began to reap some profits.

The city voted in 1917 to put 2 percent of the utility's gross revenues into the city's general fund. That was increased

(See UTILITY, Page 14A)